

the first and only memorial dedicated to any ethnic group in our Nation's capitol, is dedicated to Japanese American immigrants who valiantly fought for and attained their full rights as citizens.

When I attended the dedication ceremony for the new Memorial last fall, I was overwhelmed by the great honor finally bestowed upon Japanese Americans by our great nation. Think about it for a moment—America is a country of immigrants—many waves of immigrants. And today, there is only one memorial to honor any of these immigrants in the shadow of our nation's Capitol—that is the Japanese American Memorial.

And finally today, a brand new, state-of-art veteran's medical center, named after the late Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, now proudly serves all our veterans here in Hawaii.

So today, I say to our Nisei veterans you have brought great pride to your families as well as pride in their heritage for future generations of Japanese Americans. More importantly, you have ensured that your friends, who were lost in battle, did not die in vain.

So at this juncture, where are our Nisei veterans headed next? Are they declaring victory and passing the 442nd's Statue of Liberty torch on to others?

While such action would certainly be justified, it would not reflect the values ingrained into many Nisei by their progressive high school teachers who exposed them to the ideals of justice and equality and urged them to continually reach out to others.

It is said that McKinley Principal Miles Carey got people to do what he wanted because he treated them humanely and considerately. If there was any fault with Dr. Carey, and maybe it was not a fault, he was dreamer. But all of this was due to his efforts to treat people right. And in this regard, he did an outstanding job in getting his students to think like him. So it is not surprising that the final chapters of American's Nisei veterans are still being written.

Here in Hawaii, our Nisei veterans are currently developing and endowing at the University of Hawaii a Nisei Veterans Forum on Universal Values for a Democratic Society. The purpose of this effort is to show current and future generations of high school students the benefits of the values drawn from the various ethnic groups here in Hawaii—values similar to those of Nisei veterans that were used to help them persevere through challenging times during their lives. In this manner, Nisei veterans are passing on to future generations of students the same type of beliefs and values they were exposed to during their formative years.

On the national front, Nisei and Sansei from Hawaii and the mainland are actively engaged in the important work of the new Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. The Museum is the first and only national museum dedicated to an ethnic group in America. Through both fixed and traveling exhibits, the Museum shares the darkest and brightest moments for Japanese Americans with others both at home and abroad. It is noteworthy that the City of Los Angeles currently lists the Museum as one of seven must see attractions in its brochures provide to tourists.

The Museum has also received a large federal grant this year, through the sponsorship of Senator Inouye, that will use the experiences of Japanese American veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam as the foundation for a new Center for the Preservation of Democracy. In this manner, the sacrifices of our Nisei veterans will be captured and used to construct a very real and moving American story. A story that needs to be told over and over again to current and

future generations of Americans so that no group of Americans is ever subjected to what Japanese Americans experienced.

Well, 60 years has now passed since that Black & Gold Yearbook of 1941. Today, the typical McKinley boy from that time is still five ft., six inches tall, but perhaps heavier than the then reported 124 pounds. By contrast, I know that the typical McKinley girl from that same period is still five ft., one inch tall, and still weighs 97 pounds.

Regarding the results of that 1941 high school survey, I say to our Nisei veterans you successfully carried through on your convictions. You stepped forward to defend your country and after the war worked hard to make Hawaii and our nation better places to live.

You are grayer and wiser than you were 60 years ago. You still believe in honor, duty, and country and have a proven record to show these are not just words. You are still humble and as such will not bathe yourselves in glory although most of us realize you deserve such honor. And perhaps more important, you truly care about your families and all families in America. For it is through your story that your children, grandchildren, and future generations will cherish and take great pride in their Japanese American heritage. And it is through this same story that other Americans will learn that the preservation of our democracy requires constant vigilance and courage to not allow hysteria of any kind to strip innocent Americans of their basic rights.

That 1941 yearbook states, "Respectfully dedicated to our parents and the excellent home influence given us." Today I say to our Nisei veterans who died in combat, to our Nisei veterans who returned home and are no longer with us, and to our Nisei veterans we are blessed to still have with us: We dedicated this service to you and the excellent influence you have had on us.

God bless our Nisei veterans and their families, God bless their beloved Hawaii, and God bless the great nation they served so well both in battle and in peace.

THE CLEAN EFFICIENT AUTOMOBILES RESULTING FROM ADVANCED CAR TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2001

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to address a bill I have just introduced, S. 760, the "CLEAR Act," which is short for the Clean Efficient Automobiles Resulting from Advanced Car Technologies Act.

Let me begin my remarks by thanking the original cosponsors of S. 760, Senators ROCKEFELLER, JEFFORDS, KERRY, CRAPO, LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, CHAFEE, and GORDON SMITH, all of whom have joined with me in drafting this legislation which will help our country achieve a greater reliance on alternative fuel technologies.

Our proposal relies on a system of tax-based incentives to encourage development of alternative fuel technologies and consumer acceptance of these products. Rather than rely on a system of federal mandates, we use tax credits to promote all of the advanced technologies being pursued by auto manufacturers in a dramatic effort to reduce emissions and improve efficiency. These technologies include: fuel cell; hybrid electric; alternative fuel; and battery electric vehicles.

It is significant that our bipartisan initiative is founded on a belief that government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers in the free market. Rather, the CLEAR Act leaves it up to the consumer to choose among the lowest emitting vehicles.

By promoting the technologies and fuels that improve air quality, S. 760 helps to solve two of our nation's most difficult and expensive problems, air pollution and energy dependence. These are issues of critical concern in my home state of Utah. According to a study by Utah's Division of Air Quality, on-road vehicles in Utah account for 22 percent of particulate matter. This particulate matter can be harmful to citizens who suffer from chronic respiratory or heart disease, influenza, or asthma.

Automobiles also contribute significantly to hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions in my state. These two pollutants react in sunlight to form ozone, which in turn reduces lung function in humans and hurts our resistance to colds and asthma. In addition, vehicles account for as much as 87 percent of carbon monoxide emissions. Carbon monoxide can be harmful to persons with heart, respiratory, or circulatory ailments.

While Utah has made important strides in improving air quality, it is a fact that each year more vehicular miles are driven in our State. It is clear that if we are to have cleaner air, we must encourage the use of alternative fuels and technologies to reduce vehicle emissions.

Let me paint the picture on the national scale. In 1998, a year for which we have complete data, our nation had 121 regions that failed to attain the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards, NAAQS. This status directly threatens the quality of life of more than 100 million, or about one-third, of our citizens who must bear the health and the economic burden associated with non-attainment. Non-attainment status can be costly, whether due to the loss of federal highway money, lost economic opportunities, or the expensive measures required to reach attainment.

EPA has set new standards for both ozone and particulate matter, PM 2.5. By the EPA's own estimates, the annual cost of achieving the new ozone standard in 2010 was set at \$9.6 billion. Additionally, the EPA put the annual cost of achieving the PM 2.5 standard at \$37 billion, for a combined cost of \$47 billion annually. These staggering figures paint a graphic picture of why we need to invest more effort toward the promotion of alternative fuels. Every new alternative fuel or advanced technology car, truck, or bus on the road will displace a conventional vehicle's lifetime of emissions and reliance on imported oil.

This brings me to another important benefit of the CLEAR Act, increased energy independence. Whether during

the energy crisis in the 1970s, during the Persian Gulf War, or during our current energy crisis, every American has felt the sting of our dependency on foreign oil. And I might add, Mr. President, that our dependency on foreign oil has steadily increased to the point where we now depend on foreign sources for more than 57 percent of our oil. Last month alone, it was over 60 percent. When enacted, the CLEAR Act will play a key role in helping our nation improve its energy security by increasing the diversity of our fuel options and decreasing our need for gasoline. Our nation's energy strategy will not be complete without an incentive to increase the use of alternative fuels and advanced car technologies.

Historically, consumers have faced three basic obstacles to accepting the use of alternative fuels and advanced technologies. These are the cost of the vehicles, the cost of alternative fuel, and the lack of an adequate infrastructure of alternative fueling stations. The CLEAR Act would lower all three of these barriers.

First, we provide a tax credit of 50 cents per gasoline-gallon equivalent for the purchase of alternative fuel at retail. To give customers better access to alternative fuel, we extend an existing deduction for the capital costs of installing alternative fueling stations. We also provide a 50 percent credit for the installation costs of retail and residential refueling stations.

Finally, we provide tax credits to consumers to purchase alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. To make certain that the tax benefit we provide translates into a corresponding benefit to the environment, we split the vehicle tax credit into two. One part provides a base tax credit for the purchase of vehicles dedicated to the use of alternative fuel or vehicles using advanced technologies. The other part offers a bonus credit based on the vehicle's efficiency and reduction in emissions. In this way, we are confident that the CLEAR Act will provide the biggest possible "bang for the buck" in terms of providing a social benefit to our citizens.

We all recognize that in the future we will not use gasoline fueled vehicles to the same extent we do today. Our legislation is an attempt to bring benefits of cleaner air to our citizens sooner, to free our cities from expensive EPA regulations, and to reduce our consumption of foreign oil. S. 760 enables us to tackle these problems with incentives, not mandates.

Our proposal is the most comprehensive legislation ever brought before Congress to promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles and advanced car technologies among consumers. We urge our colleagues to join with us in this forward-looking approach to cleaner air and increased energy independence.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 24, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,681,673,830,247.36. Five trillion, six hundred eighty-one billion, six hundred seventy-three million, eight hundred thirty thousand, two hundred forty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents.

One year ago, April 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,711,906,000,000. Five trillion, seven hundred eleven billion, nine hundred six million.

Five years ago, April 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,110,704,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred ten billion, seven hundred four million.

Ten years ago, April 24, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,438,135,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred thirty-eight billion, one hundred thirty-five million.

Fifteen years ago, April 24, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,959,555,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred fifty-nine billion, five hundred fifty-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,722,118,830,247.36. Three trillion, seven hundred twenty-two billion, one hundred eighteen million, eight hundred thirty thousand, two hundred forty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING CENTRAL FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this past weekend, twenty-two exceptional students from Central Falls High School in Rhode Island visited Washington to compete in the national finals of the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program, after finishing in first place in the Rhode Island competition. In fact, this is the fourth time that the Central Falls High School team has won the statewide competition!

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with it, the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program is among the most extensive educational specifically to ensure that young people understand the history and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We The People . . . The Citizen And The Constitution" program provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history. It is heartwarming to see young Rhode Islanders taking such an active and participatory interest in public affairs.

I am very proud of Gabriel Arias, Jorge Bolivar, Andrew Castillo, Karen Corrales, Johnathan DePina, Kinga Dobrzycki, Kayla England, Renee Fisher, Christina Garcia, Roseangel Gavidia, Karen Hurtado, Deborah Navarro, Jessica Pareja, Denisse Reyes, Erik Rua, Shirley Rua, Jesse Salazar, Janet Sanchez, Corey Stad, Monica Torres, Vladimir Uran, Sirabel Uran, for making it to the national finals. I congratulate this outstanding group of young men and women for their hard work and perseverance. Also, I want to applaud Jeff Schanck, a fine teacher who deserves so much credit for guiding the Central Falls High School team to the national finals.

Yesterday, I was pleased to visit with the students from Central Falls to offer my congratulations for what they have achieved. These students, with the guidance of Mr. Schanck, have learned much about the meaning of our nation and what countless men and women have fought and died to protect. No matter what the outcome of the contest, they have each earned the greatest prize of all: Knowledge.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1238(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) and the order of the House of Wednesday, April 4, 2001, the Speaker on Thursday, April 5, 2001, appointed the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Security Review Commission: Mr. Stephen D. Bryen of Maryland, Ms. June Teufel Dryer of Florida, and Mr. James R. Lilley of Maryland.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 428. An act concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment